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3

# X-FACTOR

PETER DAVID • RYAN SOOK

Calero

Von Grawbadger

Villarrubia



DIRECT EDITION

RATED T+



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KAY, IT'S TIME TO ADMIT  
THAT I'M FINDING LAYLA  
EXTREMELY DISCONCERTING.

SHE SHOWED UP AT OUR  
HEADQUARTERS OUT OF  
NOWHERE. EVERYONE  
ASSUMES THAT EVERYONE  
ELSE KNOWS WHY SHE'S  
THERE.

SHE KEEPS SAYING SHE  
"KNOWS STUFF," AND  
I'M NOT SURE WHAT  
THAT MEANS. EXCEPT...

...WELL...

...SHE KEEPS KNOWING  
STUFF. KNOWING IT  
BEFORE WE DO. KNOWING  
IT BEFORE ANYONE CAN.

THANK GOD  
SHE'S ON  
OUR SIDE...

...EXCEPT...HOW  
DO I KNOW FOR A  
FACT THAT SHE IS?

THE  
**BIG**  
BANG

IN A SOCIETY WHERE MUTANTS AND FORMER MUTANTS ALIKE FEEL THREATENED BY THE WORLD AROUND THEM, THEY TURN TO THEIR FIRST, BEST LINE OF DEFENSE WHENEVER TROUBLE ARISES: X-FACTOR, THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY FOUNDED BY MADROX THE MULTIPLE MAN.

# X-FACTOR



THERE'S GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS. THE GOOD NEWS IS:

RICTOR, SENT PLUMMETING TO HIS POTENTIAL DEATH THROUGH THE HOMICIDAL WHIMSY OF A MADROX DUPE, WAS SAVED BY MONET'S TIMELY ARRIVAL. AFTER INITIALLY BALKING AT THE IDEA, HE HAS PROVISIONALLY JOINED THE GROUP DESPITE HIS LACK OF POWERS.

X-FACTOR DEALT SPEEDILY AND EFFICIENTLY WITH ITS FIRST CLIENT, ONE GLORIA SANTIAGO WHO WAS CONVINCED THAT HER SISTER'S ERRATIC BEHAVIOR WAS DUE TO MIND CONTROL FROM AN EVIL MUTANT. SIRYN INVESTIGATED AND DISCOVERED THAT THE SISTER WAS INSTEAD SIMPLY INVOLVED IN A TORRID AFFAIR WITH MOVIE STAR JACK VAUGHN. CASE CLOSED, CHECK CASHED.

LAYLA MILLER HAS GOTTEN THE FILING SYSTEM STRAIGHTENED OUT.

THE BAD NEWS IS:

TENSIONS IN MUTANT TOWN ARE RISING AS DEMONSTRATORS—ALL FORMER MUTANTS—are clashing in the streets. HALF ARE ANGRY OVER THE DECIMATION, HALF ARE RELIEVED TO BE "NORMAL," AND TEMPS ARE STARTING TO RUN HIGH.

MR. TRYR, THE HEAD OF SINGULARITY INVESTIGATIONS, IS PLOTTING IN CONJUNCTION WITH AN ELDERLY GUY WHO KIND OF LOOKS LIKE MERLIN, BUT IT'S NOT, TRUST US.

NO ONE ELSE BUT LAYLA UNDERSTANDS THE FILING SYSTEM SHE SET UP, AND NO ONE QUITE KNOWS WHAT SHE'S DOING THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

MADROX, WHILE WONDERING WHAT HE'S GOING TO DO ABOUT THE FACT THAT HIS DUPES HAVE BECOME SO UNPREDICTABLE, GETS A PHONE CALL INFORMING HIM THAT GLORIA SANTIAGO HAS BEEN ARRESTED FOR THE MURDER OF HER SISTER.

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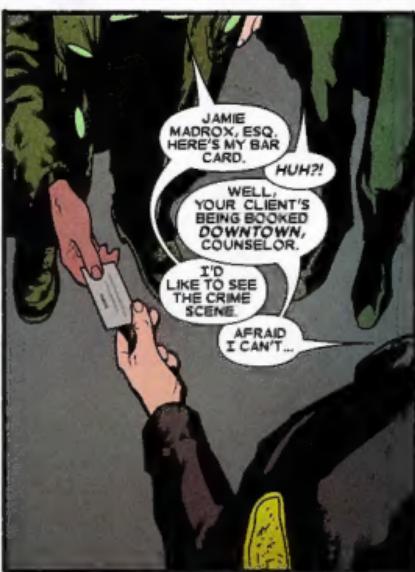
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DETECTIVE -  
THE LADY IS A MUTANT,  
SHE'S KNOWN AS "SIRYN,"  
AND AMONG OTHER  
TALENTS...

...SHE CAN  
MODULATE HER  
VOICE TO MAKE  
PEOPLE DO  
WHATEVER SHE  
WISHES.

FOR INSTANCE,  
SHE COULD COMPEL  
MY CLIENT TO MAKE A  
FALSE CONFESSION,  
AND HE'D THINK IT WAS  
ALL HIS IDEA.

I SUGGEST  
YOU GET SOME  
COTTON BALLS FROM  
THE BATHROOM, PLUG  
YOUR EARS, AND ESCORT  
HER OUT, ALONG WITH  
HER BOSS, MR.  
MADROX.

YOU KNOW  
A GOOD DEAL  
ABOUT ME, IT  
SEEMS, MR...?

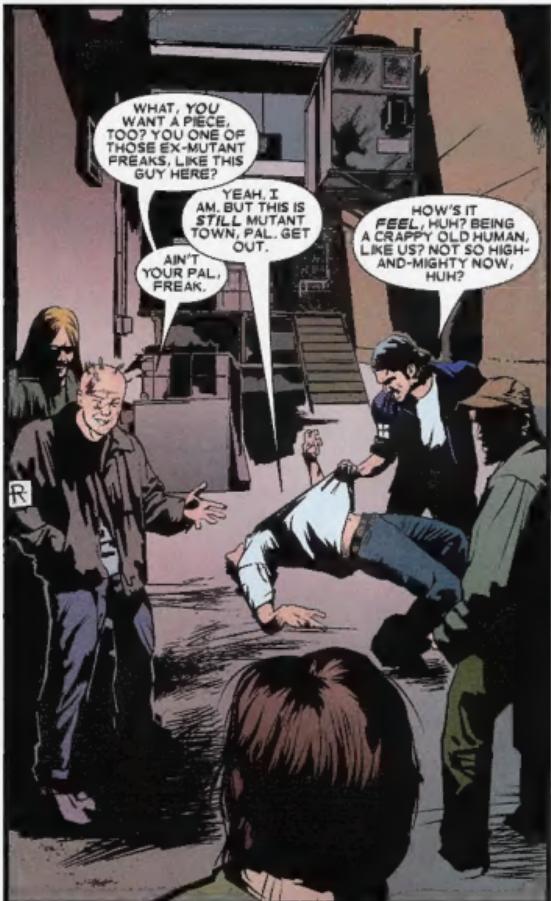
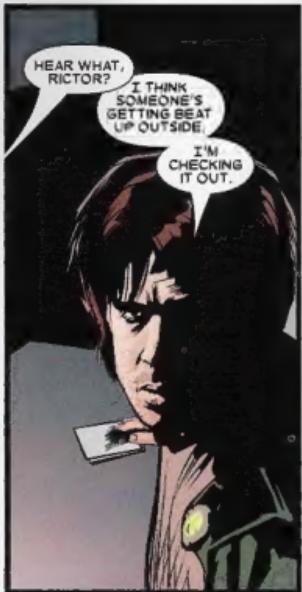
TRYP.  
DAMIAN TRYP...  
JUNIOR, TO BE  
EXACT.

MY FATHER  
AND I OVERSEE  
SINGULARITY  
INVESTIGATIONS.

YOU CAN  
READ OUR  
CARD WHILE  
YOU LEAVE.

SINGULARITY INVESTIGATIONS  
2010 © Matt Fraction and David Aja



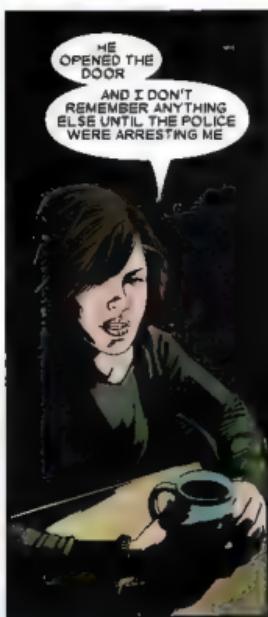












SHE'S USUALLY  
PRETTY ON TOP  
OF THINGS

ON THE  
CATWALK  
ON THE  
CATWALK

I SHAKE MY  
SEXY BUTT ON  
THE CATWALK...

AND I'M  
TOO SEXY FOR  
MY ROBE.

MONEY'S  
GOT A  
MINUTE?

OH  
YES OH  
YES

**KNOCK  
KNOCK**

MONET, I  
THOUGHT MAYBE  
YOU SHOULD—

WHOA...

TOO  
SEXY FOR MY  
ROBE...

TOO  
SEXY FOR  
M...

















# X-FACTOR

**Editor's Note:** Due to my being a dodo head, I misspelled Dennis Calero's name not once, not twice, but three times in X-FACTOR #2. Dennis, you did a great job on the issue and this one. Thank you for your help. I can't wait to see your first full issue (Issue #5) and I apologize for misspelling your name. You rock, my man.

--Andy

Hi, Peter David here for our second letters page (and they said we wouldn't last.) Now... there was a recurring theme in the comments on issue #2—from Nick Marino, Michael Lapinski, Lewis-Paul Stuchbury, Butch Mapa, and others—so I figured I'd address it in one shot. And that recurring theme was dissatisfaction with the somewhat varied art style, mixing and matching Ryan Sook and Dennis Calero.

Granted, I'm merely the scripter, but I'm going to be saying "we" because all decisions Andy Schmidt made were in consultation with me, so I share responsibility. And what it comes down to is: We had a priorities collision. Due to prior commitments, Ryan got a later start on X-FACTOR #1 than anticipated, but from a business standpoint, two issues of X-FACTOR had to ship by the end of the year. No arguing, no leeway.

Now...we could have had Ryan skip issue #2 entirely and go straight to issue #3. The problem is that those fans who buy the title for Sook would have felt they had been forsaken. And we at Marvel were reluctant to forsake those who were for Sook. So we felt it best

that—rather than not have issue #2 Sook at all—we would have it Sook as much as possible. Maximum Sookage, as it were.

So we doled out the storylines to the different artists and got the issue out on time. We know it didn't Sook as much as Sook fans would have liked, but we hope it Sooked enough. And by the way, we have no intention of slighting Dennis Calero (**Editor's Note:** Well, I clearly did, hence the misspelling of his name three times.—Andy), who we personally think did, and continues to do, a yeoman job on the series. But we're left with an interesting question: When such circumstances arise, would you guys prefer a single artist for consistency's sake, or as much of the regular guy as possible? You tell us.

As for the coloring boner on page 18...c'mon, guys. Simply complaining because Monet accidentally got transformed into Siryn for a page? Where's the imagination in that? Y'know what: For this one time, I'm reactivating the No-Prize. Send me your best explanation as to why that was not, in fact, a coloring mistake, but instead a cunningly brilliant part of the mighty Marvel masterplan. I'll send a No-Prize to the best answer. Darned if I know what it'll be, but it'll be something.

To X-Factor:

I love the new series. When I first saw it I wasn't sure I would like it, but it's awesome and I can't stop reading. I haven't been reading comics long and I'm glad I get a chance to read something with these characters.

Thanks for bringing it back and I love the dark new look, I've never read anything in Marvel like it.

—Chris Holstein  
Glendale, AZ

To X-Factor:

If there is any new title that deserves to stand the test of time X-FACTOR is it—I'm excited to follow the exploits of this very unique group of adventurers. Nothing I've read lately has evoked in me the feel and excitement of the first time I picked up an issue of X-MEN so long ago.

With its unique film noir/pulp comic approach I'm hooked -- I'm looking forward to X-FACTOR every month!

--J.C. Alvarez  
New York, NY 11101

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